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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Huntingdon,

FOR THE YEAR 1944,

BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON :

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TO THE

HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my report upon the health of the Borough of Huntingdon for the year 1944, compiled according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The Borough of Huntingdon, with which is incorporated the village of Hartford, is situate on the north side of the River Ouse. It has an area of 2,151 acres, the soil being gravel and clay. The town is composed of a collection of streets, the main one, a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river.

War-time industries were brought into the town, which give employment to inhabitants of Huntingdon, and also necessitating an influx from the neighbouring towns and villages. Huntingdon became an evacuation centre from the beginning of the war. Two complete schools are accommodated here, and as there are also Service Camps in the neighbourhood, the Borough is in a constant state of overcrowding.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was estimated at 1,403.

The Rateable Value is £30,952.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £125 9s. 6d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population		5330
Live Births Registered...	121	M. 73 F. 48
Legitimate ...		M. 66 F 42
Illegitimate ...		M. 7 F. 6
Birth Rate		22.7 per 1000
England and Wales		17.6 per 1000
Stillbirths	3	M. 2 F. 1
		0.56 per 1000
England and Wales		0.50 per 1000
Deaths due to Childbirth		*Nil*
Deaths of Infants under 1 year...	5	M. 4 F. 1
Legitimate ...		M. 2 F. 1
Illegitimate ...		M. 2
Premature Birth ...		1
Pneumonia ...		1
Inanition		1
Drowning		2

Deaths Registered	72 M. 34 F. 38
	29 over 70 years
	7 over 80 years
	2 over 90 years
Death Rate	... 13.5 per 1000
	England and Wales 11.6 per 1000

There was an appreciable increase in the births (88 to 121), a slight increase in the deaths, but 38 were aged people, compared with 34 in 1943.

There were no deaths from Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, or Diphtheria among children. The general health of the inhabitants for the year was very good. There was an epidemic of Chicken Pox, but not in a severe form. All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first 24 hours.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In- and Out-patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots takes care of cases that are not serious enough to be sent to the Mental Hospital at Arlesey.

The Public Assistance Institution at the North-end of the town takes all cases of illness and infirmity from the district, with the exception of the Mental cases.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes, and cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the local Isolation Hospital.

Food is examined periodically in the Laboratory, Tenison Road, Cambridge, and Clinical material by Dr. Harvey, of Cambridge, through the County Council.

Legislation in Force.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	...	1907
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act...	...	1889
,, ,, Prevention Act ...	...	1890
Notification of Births Acts	...	1907
Shops Act	...	1934

Hospitals.

There is a voluntary County Hospital in the Borough which receives cases ; an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases supported by the rates from this and neighbouring Councils. Cases of Small Pox in the Borough are now provided for by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is a sufficient ambulance service in the Borough for ordinary cases and for infectious cases.

Clinics.

There are clinics in the Borough for Tuberculosis, Chest Diseases, Ear, Nose and Throat cases, Child Welfare, Ante-natal matters, Orthopaedic, and Mental Diseases, under the County Council jurisdiction.

Water Supply.

During the year samples of water have been sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge, for analysis, averaging every ten days, and have been found to be very satisfactory after treatment by chlorination. The supply to Godmanchester Borough has been maintained and in an increased degree. During the year a new supply by means of a well-point system in the collecting area was brought into use. This has proved to be a very great help in augmenting the supply. Owing to the pollution of the river by outside sources public bathing has been prohibited.

Drainage and Sewage.

The sewage disposal scheme was still delayed, and it is hoped that during the next year national conditions will allow the scheme to be proceeded with in the preliminary stages. There is an urgent need for the scheme, especially as regards Hartford, which part of the town is very inadequately drained.

Collecting and Disposal of House Refuse.

This has been collected regularly once a week, and from military establishments two or three times a week. The refuse is destroyed by means of an incinerator which is situated well away from the town.

Inspection.

During the year I have made inspections of the District accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, vide page 8.

Housing.

The Borough Council made preparations during the year for the provision of permanent and temporary houses. At the end of the year sites for both of these were being considered. There is a great need for additional homes at the present time, and it is hoped that during the coming year a substantial advance will be made in preparations for these two schemes.

The Borough Council now possess 200 houses, and of these 190 have been built and 10 acquired since 1914.

Inspections under Housing Acts have been in abeyance, but have been made and urgent matters dealt with under Public Health Act, 1936.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health)	30
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	42
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1925) and Sec. 5 of the 1936 Act	—
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

Lodging Houses.

There is one registered Lodging House in the Borough.

Shops Act, 1934.

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply to the schools is the same as that of the Borough. The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease. Owing to the evacuation scheme all schools were overcrowded.

Tuberculosis.

Cases of Tuberculosis are periodically examined at the County Clinic, or visited by the Health Visitor, and X-rayed at Papworth Sanatorium. The County Council allow patients the statutory allowances, besides priority milk and eggs. There have been three deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. There were seven new cases, but three cases were removed from the register as " disease arrested."

Venereal Disease.

As this is not a notifiable disease, no record of cases is kept, but it is known that the incidence of disease is slight. Cases are treated at Peterborough and Cambridge.

Pneumonia.

There were 14 cases of this disease, with 7 deaths.

Influenza.

This disease was quiescent during the year; 1 death was reported.

Cancer.

There were 13 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Varicella.

There was an epidemic this year, 88 cases being notified.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 14 cases notified, but no deaths.

Scabies.

There were a few cases of Scabies, which were satisfactorily dealt with at the Public Assistance Institution or in the patients' homes.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Infective Jaundice are notifiable as a wartime measure, but there were no cases of Measles reported and only 29 of Whooping Cough and 3 of Jaundice. Your Authority innoculates children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough free of charge.

The following cases were notified under the Act :—

Varicella	88
Tuberculosis	7
Pneumonia	14
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	14
Diphtheria	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	6
Whooping Cough	29
Infective Jaundice	3

Sixty-three children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year, 45 under 5 years and 18 between 5 and 15 years. It is estimated that approximately 75% of under 5's and 90% of 5–15's have been immunised against Diphtheria. The one case notified was a girl of 17 years.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

Tuberculosis	3
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	5

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The Council have Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings and regulations relating to house drainage and water supply.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Huntingdon Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON.

August, 1945.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Huntingdon, 1944.

	Males.	Females
All Causes	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis... ...	2	—
Other Tuberculosis...	1	—
Cancer	5	8
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	4	9
Heart Disease	6	9
Other disease of circulatory system	—	2
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	4	1
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	2
Influenza	1	—
Nephritis	—	1
Premature Birth	1	—
Road Traffic accident	2	—
Inanition	—	1
Other Violent Causes	3	1
Other Defined Causes	2	3

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1944.

Total No. Inspections made during 1944... ... 82
,, ,, Notices Served (Informal) 60

Complaints received	Total number of	64
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 91)	No. inspected	70
	Nuisances abated...	60
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	No. inspected	4
	Nuisances abated...	4
Animals improperly kept	No. inspected	—
	Nuisances abated...	—
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	No. inspected	—
	Nuisances abated...	—
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc.... ...	No. inspected	7
	Nuisances abated...	7
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	No. inspected	—
	Nuisances abated...	—
Smoke nuisances	No. of observations	4
	Nuisances abated	—
Offensive accumulations	No. of inspections	—
	Nuisances abated	—
Other sanitary conditions	No. inspected	—
	Nuisances abated...	—
Lodging houses	No. registered	1
	No. of inspections	1
Slaughter houses and shops	No. licensed or registered ..	—
	No. of inspections	—
Offensive trades (Sec. 112 Public Health Act, 1875)	No. established	—
	No. of inspections	—
Public Health Act, 1936	No. of houses condemned ...	—
	No. closed	—
	No. cleaned and limewashed ...	1
Food—seizures of unwholesome ...	No. of	—
Infectious Diseases	Houses affected with Tuberculosis	—
	Houses inspected	—
	No. of inspections	—
	Houses disinfected	10
	Schools disinfected	—
	Disinfectant used Newcol : Lawes	
	Lots of clothing disinfected ...	—
	,, ,, destroyed ...	—
Privy Middens	New provided	—
	No. repaired	—
	No. converted to pails	—
	No. converted to W.C.'s	—
Pail or Earth Closets	New provided	8
	No. converted to W.C.'s ...	—
Water Closets	New provided	—
	No. supplied with water	—
Ashpits	New provided	—
	No. converted to ashbins ...	—
Ashbins	New provided	16
Water Supply	Samples taken for analysis ...	30
	Samples condemned	—
	Wells closed	—
	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc. ...	—
	Public supply substituted for well or pond	4

	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	—
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted		—
Total Legal Proceedings, *i.e.*, Summons, etc.		—
Convictions		—
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.		
Workshops	Total number on register (including bakehouses) ...	97
	Number in which nuisances abated	—
Bakehouses	No. on register	7
	No. in which nuisance abated ...	2
	No. of outworkers	—
	No. of houses	—
	No. of infected houses	—
Legal Proceedings, *i.e.*, Summonses, etc.		—
Convictions		—

(*a*) MILK SUPPLY.—This was controlled by the Milk Marketing Board. Dairies and cowsheds are regularly inspected, and any defects corrected where required by the owners under the 1926 Order.

(*b*) MEAT.—There are six slaughter-houses in the district, but have not been in use since all cattle have been slaughtered at St. Ives under a control scheme.

(*c*) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Food Inspection and Sampling is carried out by County Weights and Measures Inspector.

(*d*) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—No action taken.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—	
No. in District	12
No. Registered	12
No. of Inspections of Premises	24
No. of Inspections during Milking time	6
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out ...	2
No. of premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	2 under consideration
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out...	2
Have regulations been adopted	Yes
Premises with Well Water Supply—	
No. of	6
No. of from which water analysed	—
Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers)—	
No. in District	6
No. Inspection of Premises	12

E. J. SAUNDERS,
Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES E. HICKS,
M.O.H.

BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON. Infantile Mortality during the Year 1944.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	2				2		1			5
	Uncertified	2				2					
Premature Birth		1				1					1
Inanition		1				1					1
Congenital Heart Disease ...											
Pneumonia								1			1
Accidental											
Drowning		2				2					2
		4				4		1			5

Nett Births in the year :—

Legitimate	...	108
Illegitimate	...	13
Still Births	...	3
Total		124

Nett Deaths in the year of:—

Legitimate Infants	...	3	Total 5
Illegitimate Infants	...	2	

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non--Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			1				1	
5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				1				
15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				1				
20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
					1			
25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1	1					
35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1							
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	

Publlc Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925.
Public Health Act, 1925, *Section* 62.

No action was taken.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of :

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1935	7	2
1936	6	6
1937	10	2
1938	14	3
1939	8	5
1940	14	4
1941	15	5
1942	8	4
1943	8	1
1944	13	3
	103	35